

(ix) The Malayinkizh-Uruttambalam road should be gravelled and repaired and the bridge on the road should be constructed soon.

(x) The irrigation tanks in the taluk should be repaired and maintained by the P. W. D.

(xi) A canal should be opened along the western side of the Kottukal Elai.

(xii) The non-departmental Anchal office at Maranalloor should be made a departmental one. It was formerly a departmental Anchal office, but for no reason it was converted into a non-departmental office. The importance of the place demanded a departmental office there.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Govinda Pillai, with regard to the conversion of the non-departmental into a departmental Anchal office at Maranalloor, will you kindly write to the Anchal Superintendent about that ?

MEMBER : There was no reason for the conversion.

DEWAN : In regard to the conversion of the traces from the Trivandrum-Kovalam road, 8th mile, south to the sea and north to the Panathura Pozhi into cart roads, the Chief Engineer promises to make an investigation and submit a report as well as also of the carrying on of the road to meet the Karamana river.

As regards the provision of a Satrom at Kovalam, I am not sure that many people visit Kovalam. I see that the Land Revenue Commissioner and the Peishkar take the same view as yourself, i. e., that a Satrom at Kovalam is necessary for the public as well as for the officers visiting the place on duty. I will have plans and estimates prepared.

In regard to the roads you have mentioned, (vii, viii and ix), separate replies will be sent you.

The question of tank restoration is engaging the attention of Government.

The Chief Engineer tells me that the question of opening a canal along the western side of the Kottukal Elai will cost about Rs. 30,000 and it is unwise to incur this heavy expenditure while an expenditure of Rs. 20,000 has already been incurred to open a canal along the eastern side.

MEMBER : If the canal is opened, people are even prepared to pay a higher tax.

DEWAN : You say that the people are willing to pay increased tax if this canal is cut. I shall discuss the matter with the Chief Engineer later on.

MEMBER : Nothing has been said about the ferry boat in the Vellayanikayal.

DEWAN : If you are going to have a road leading to the lake on the other side or both sides, is there need for a ferry ?

MEMBER : It will be a boon to the agriculturists of Neyyattinkara, if the Aruvikkara scheme is sanctioned.

DEWAN : It will be taken into consideration in due course.

78. Needs of the Neyyattinkara municipality.

MR. A. S. SANKARANARAYANA PILLAI (*Member, Municipal Council, Neyyattinkara*) urged for the removal of the liquor shops within the municipality from the municipal limits. The Excise Committee's report had been submitted to Government long ago and it was imperative that Government should pass early orders on the report laying down their policy in respect of temperance etc.

The member next dealt with the need for establishing an English school for girls at Neyyattinkara and for extending the premises of the existing English school.

In regard to the control of traffic in the town, the member stated that if the officers of the municipality were empowered to check the traffic, there would be adequate control. The Police officers by themselves were not equal to the task.

Finally the member urged that the grant-in-aid to the municipality might be raised to Rs. 1,000.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Sankaranarayana Pillai, in regard to the question of removing of liquor shops from municipal limits, I am afraid the question is one affecting the municipalities in general and cannot be pronounced upon until we have made experiments and seen what degree of success attends upon our efforts in respect of one municipality. We have selected Changanachery as the seat of the experiment and I have no doubt that in the course of a year or two we will be in a position to say definitely how the experiment works, whether local option justified itself and satisfied the people as a whole.

In the matter of education, I shall see what the present position is in respect to the girls' schools.

As for raising the grant to the municipality, I shall examine the present financial position of the municipality and see what schemes they have in mind and how they propose to spend money and then, if circumstances justify we will see whether an additional grant should be given to the municipality. In regard to empowering the municipality to control motor traffic within municipal limits, the question is beset with all the difficulties that generally arise from duality of control. I shall consult the Commissioner of Police and see whether it is possible for the two bodies, the Government police and the municipal establishment to work together without conflict or confusion.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 1-55 P. M. and re-assembled at 3 P. M.

79. Needs of the Padmanabhapuram municipality.

MR. MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN (*Member, Municipal Council, Padmanabhapuram*) said that there was no proper accommodation for the municipal office at Padmanabhapuram. The office was at present accommodated in the Sanitary Inspector's office. This was a dark and dingy building unfit for human habitation. The council had therefore resolved recently to construct a new building for the office. Though the financial condition of the municipality was not very good, they could somehow manage to provide a building, if Government gave them the required site. The site of the telephone office at Thuckalai now in the possession of the Public Works Department was in more ways than one a suitable site for putting up the municipal office. The Public Works Department could easily locate the telephone office in the Sub-Division Office.

The Padmanabhapuram municipality was a minor municipality. Many of the activities pertaining to municipal administration could not be attended to by the municipality for want of funds. It would be a great help to the municipality if Government either enhanced its grant or permitted the municipality to open a toll-gate on the Kumaracoil village road.

In the matter of making nominations to the municipal council, Government might first consult the municipal president who would be in a position to recommend proper persons.

Scarcity of drinking water, particularly in the hot season, was a source of great trouble to the people of Thuckalai as well as to the travellers halting there on the way to Nagercoil. If a channel was opened from the Thiruvithancode channel at Parakode near the 32nd mile stone of the M. S. Road to Valliyar, as many as six tanks at Thuckalai would get good water and there would no longer be any scarcity of drinking water at the place.

For the maintenance of the roads in the Padmanabhapuram municipality, Government were annually allotting a certain amount and placing it with the Public Works Department. But the department was not spending the whole amount. The roads in the municipality were therefore in a bad condition. If the annual allotment was transferred to the municipality, they would make the necessary repairs and keep the roads in good condition. If this was not feasible, Government should see that the amounts annually allotted were spent regularly.

A veterinary hospital at Thuckalai was a pressing necessity. The nearest veterinary hospitals were at Nagercoil and Kuzhithurai, each 12 and 10 miles away from Thuckalai. People could not be expected to take their cattle to such distant places for treatment.